



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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Editor: NICK NICHOLS

There was the usual team stationed at the entrance. DICK MANSFIELD was taking care of visitors, MIKE McMAHON was greeting, and MIKE BAIRD was collecting lunch money. In that regard, members are reminded that we now have a neat bulk lunch ticket arrangement. You can buy 10 green luncheon tickets in one go for a check for \$160 to avoid having to come up with cash every week. [Useful tip – Put your name on your tickets and leave them in your manila folder for convenience.] Sergeant-at-Arms STEVE MADSEN made sure that all the decorations were in place and the audio-video equipment was set up.

President SHERRI SAGER had RICK RAYBIN lead us in the pledge. ROB LANCEFIELD introduced visiting Rotarians: Diego Christensen from General Sarmiento (Mexico), Tony Villanueva making up from San Mateo (CA), Thomas Dittler from Munich East (Germany), and Manjunath Shetty (who likes to be called “Shetty” only) from the Bangalore Whitefield Club (India). Sheety shared the sad news that he had just heard that his District Governor in India had suddenly died; and asked that we stand in his remembrance. Sheety also brought a guest, Sunil Hegae. Other visitors were: Ed Gordon (son of SAM GORDON); award-winning journalist from EPA, Henrietta Burroughs (friend/neighbor of ANNETTE GLANCKOPF); off-duty Judge Jim Kleinberg (spouse of JUDY KLEINBERG); and Shirley Negrin (wife of DAVID NEGRIN). After introducing his spouse, David announced that it was his birthday (87 and going strong!) and, despite being a Perpetual President’s Club Member, he would make a contribution to the annual charities.

Before deserting us for San Francisco, NICK NICHOLS



made his first and last opening remarks in his 13 years with the club. NICK spoke of seminal events in the computer revolution and posed the question of what comes next. Then he took a look at the bad (flood of e-mails, identity theft, and scary amount of personal data available) and the good (improved automobile control, safer aircraft, and incredible extent of data readily available). He asked who still uses a machine called a typewriter, which directly produces

hardcopy. He concluded his remarks by stating that many things will change as technology gets more powerful. He urged us as Rotarians to embrace the good and reject the bad.

DICK MANSFIELD joined the President’s Club to mark his enjoyable NW travels and to thank DAVE THORNTON, KATIE SEEDMAN, and JIM SUTHERLAND for taking good care of visitors in his absence.

CASH ALAEE and KATIE SEEDMAN announced that they were stepping forward to ensure that we have a successful fundraiser in April. Their goal is to raise \$50K and they will need the help of all the club members to find suitable auction items. Members were also reminded that their annual dues should be paid by mid September.

BRUCE GEE also joined the President’s Club to thank SHERRI SAGER for the auction item she had provided last year and which he had enjoyed. Bruce made a quick presentation of the extensive material that can now be found on our www.rotarypaloalto.org website – calendars, Pinions, pictures, activities, budget overview, officers and directors, etc. He made a plea for members to provide more information and pictures to enhance the website further. There is an additional valuable section of members’ mug shots, criminal background and personal information accessible to members only with a password. Passwords can be obtained by e-mailing BOB McCOWAN at robertmccowan@mac.com.

BILL LOVE joined the President’s Club to honor BRUCE GEE for the very valuable IT work that Bruce has done for our club.

GEORGE FITZGERALD introduced our speaker,



James Fearon, who was recently the Chair of the Political Science Department at Stanford University, and who made a very interesting presentation on what took so long for the Arab spring uprising to occur. He explored two questions. The first question was what is the explanation for the sudden outbreak

and why didn't the experts and regimes see it coming? The other was why didn't it happen sooner? The speaker described the problems of coordination in dictatorships with repressive regimes, and how chance events can create a tipping point. He also talked about the strength of contagion effects, and the example of the riots in London making it safe enough to go over the threshold of lawlessness. He mentioned the social media factor and its ability to provide community coordination. In winding up, he characterized the interplay of oil, monarchy, Islam and Arab Culture in the status of the Arab nations. In response to a question from DAN QUINN, the speaker opinioned that the leadership in China is very concerned with the new technology, but at the same terrified by it. In the long run, he believes that they will probably lose. In answer to a question by JUDY KLEINBERG, the speaker said that Al Qaeda was not a major factor in the unrest, but that there was a leaning towards eventual Islamic government elements.

Reminders from DICK FREEMAN - We Care Committee: We are looking for more drivers to help ISRAEL ZEHAVI get to meetings. Please contact DICK or BILL BUSSE if you can help. Member JOCELYN VILLARUZ has recently lost her sister-in-law in an auto accident; and she has gone to the Philippines to be with the family. Just by making a few clicks, you can help fund free mammograms for needy women by going to the website www.thebreastcancersite.com/.

Correction: GLORIA HOM joined the President's Club last week to announce her three upcoming group trips to China. If you are interested in traveling to China with Gloria, contact her at dghom@yahoo.com.

Editor's note: LYLE CONNELL needs help with editing the Pinion. Please lend him a hand. I would like to thank JOYCE CUSICK and LYLE for all their help in editing the Pinion.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

[Palo Alto Rotary - Speakers Schedule](#)

September 5 – Dark, Labor Day observed

September 12 – Joel Brinkley, Stanford professor,
International Foreign Affairs

September 19 – Dan Archer, *Graphic Novels*

September 26 – Ted Atlas, *Bay Area Spectator Sports*